

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P142488 CH/JO/SB	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/CH2004/000109	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 01 March 2004 (01.03.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 03 March 2003 (03.03.2003)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61F 5/058			
Applicant CHRISOFIX AG et al			

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>5</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>
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Date of submission of the demand 03 July 2004 (03.07.2004)	Date of completion of this report 15 February 2005 (15.02.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No. Arjona Lopez, G

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/CH2004/000109

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages _____ 1, 2, 5-10 _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ 3, 3a, 4 _____ received by this Authority on 03.07.2004 w. letter

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* _____ 1-13 _____ received by this Authority on 03.07.2004 w. letter

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages _____ 1/4 - 4/4 _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____

the claims, Nos. _____

the drawings, sheets/figs _____

the sequence listing (specify): _____

any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____

the claims, Nos. _____

the drawings, sheets/figs _____

the sequence listing (specify): _____

any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/CH2004/000109

Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing**Continuation of Box No. 1, item 2:**

1. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this report was established on the basis that:
 - a. type of material
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 - in written format
 - in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 - contained in the international application as filed
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purpose of search and/or examination
 - received by this Authority as an amendment* on _____
2. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
3. Additional comments:

* If item 4 in Box No. 1 applies, the listing and /or table(s) related thereto, which form part of the basis of the report, may be marked "superseded".

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/CH2004/000109

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO-A-89/05620

2. The present application meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) because the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

2.1 D1 (cf. page 2, lines 1-29; figures) discloses (the references in parentheses relate to said document): a device for analgesic immobilisation in the event of thorax or rib fractures, comprising a flat splint element (1) which covers a large area of the region of the break, the device having an adhesive layer (6) on the side facing the body that is suitable for adhering the immobilisation device to the body.

2.2 The subject matter of claim 1 differs therefore from the known device in that the flat splint element is intrinsically rigid.

3. The problem addressed by the present invention can therefore be considered that of immobilising the ribs.

3.1 The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)): that aim of D1 is quite different from that of the invention, namely allowing the ribs to move freely, and the flat splint element is not rigid in at least one direction. It would therefore not be obvious for a person skilled in the art to proceed from said document and make the splint element fully rigid.

4. Claims 2-13 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements.